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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

EPIC GAMES, INC.

Plaintiff, Counter-defendant
v.

APPLE INC.,

Defendant, Counterclaimant

Case No. 4:20-cv-05640-YGR-TSH

**APPLE INC.'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT
OF ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO SEAL**

The Honorable Thomas S. Hixson

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and Local Rule 79-5, Apple Inc. (“Apple”) submits this statement in support of Epic Games, Inc.’s Administrative Motion to Consider Whether Another Party’s Material Should Be Sealed Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5 (Dkt. 1179) (“Epic’s Motion”). Attached to Epic’s Motion is an Exhibit A consisting of various privilege log entries relevant to the issues before the Court. Apple respectfully requests that the Court seal portions of the privilege log entries submitted as Exhibit A. This Exhibit contains information sealable under controlling law and Local Rule 79-5, because it contains competitively sensitive, non-public information regarding Apple’s retention of outside counsel, as well as personally identifying information in the form of email addresses of Apple’s employees. Apple’s proposed redactions of Exhibit A are indicated in the redacted version of Exhibit A filed with this statement and itemized in the concurrently filed Declaration of Mark A. Perry (the “Perry Declaration”).

LEGAL STANDARD

“The court may, for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense,” including preventing the disclosure of information. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). The Court has “broad latitude” “to prevent disclosure of materials for many types of information, including, *but not limited to*, trade secrets or other confidential research, development, or confidential information.” *Phillips v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1211 (9th Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original); *see also Kamakana v. City and Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (compelling circumstances exist to seal potential release of trade secrets) (citing *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)); *PQ Labs, Inc. v. Qi*, 2014 WL 4617216, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 15, 2014) (granting multiple motions to seal where publication would lead to the disclosure of trade secrets); *Apple Inc. v. Rivos, Inc.*, 2024 WL 1204115, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 21, 2024) (granting request to seal “internal product codenames” and noting that a prior request for the same had also been granted); *Snapkeys, Ltd. v. Google LLC*, 2021 WL 1951250, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 14, 2021) (granting motion to file under seal personally identifiable information, including email addresses and telephone numbers of current and former employees).

Although a party must show compelling circumstances to seal information appended to dispositive motions, the standard for non-dispositive motions is simply “good cause.” *In re Anthem, Inc.*

1 *Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 16, 2018); *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP v.*
 2 *Innovacon, Inc.*, 2018 WL 1001097, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2018); *see DNA Genotek Inc. v. Spectrum*
 3 *Sols., L.L.C.*, 2023 WL 4335734, at *2 (S.D. Cal. May 10, 2023). In general, requests to seal information
 4 should be narrowly tailored “to remove from public view only the material that is protected.” *Ervine v.*
 5 *Warden*, 214 F. Supp. 3d 917, 919 (E.D. Cal. 2016); *Vineyard House, LLC v. Constellation Brands U.S.*
 6 *Ops., Inc.*, 619 F. Supp. 3d 970, 972 n.2 (N.D. Cal. 2021) (Gonzalez Rogers, J.) (granting a motion to
 7 seal “because the request is narrowly tailored and only includes confidential information”).

8 DISCUSSION

9 Apple seeks to seal the confidential information and personally identifying information in Exhibit
 10 A. *See* Perry Decl. ¶¶ 5–6.

11 Apple’s administrative motion to seal is subject to the “good cause” standard because it concerns
 12 non-dispositive objections related to discovery. *See, e.g., Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179 (“[T]he public
 13 has less of a need for access to court records attached only to non-dispositive motions because those
 14 documents are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action.”); *Lee v.*
 15 *Great Am. Life Ins. Co.*, 2023 WL 8126850, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2023) (“Matters concerning
 16 discovery generally are considered nondispositive of the litigation” (quotation omitted)); *see also In re*
 17 *Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2; *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP*, 2018
 18 WL1001097, at *1; *Al Otro Lado, Inc. v. Wolf*, 2020 WL 5422784, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2020).

19 Apple’s sealing request meets the good cause standard here. *Lamartina v. VMware, Inc.*, 2024
 20 WL 3049450, at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2024) (good cause to seal internal email communications). Apple
 21 operates in an intensely competitive environment, and thus has taken extensive measures to protect the
 22 confidentiality of its information. *See* Perry Decl. ¶ 3. Disclosure of the sealed information in Exhibit
 23 A relating to Apple’s retention of outside counsel could expose certain aspects of Apple’s legal strategy.
 24 Perry Decl. ¶ 5; *see also DNA Genotek Inc.*, 2023 WL 4335734, at *2 (finding good cause where
 25 disclosure would “undercut” a party’s “position ... in the marketplace”); *Apple Inc.*, 2024 WL 1204115,
 26 at *1. Additionally, courts in this district have found not only good cause, but compelling reasons exist
 27 to seal personally identifiable information. *See Snapkeys*, 2021 WL 1951250, at *3 (granting motion to
 28 file under seal personally identifiable information, including email addresses and telephone numbers of

current and former employees); *see also UnifySCC v. Cody*, 2023 WL 7170265, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2023) (finding compelling reasons to seal personally identifying information of employees, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses).

Apple has narrowly tailored its sealing request to include only the information necessary to protect its confidential business information. *See Krommenhock v. Post Foods, LLC*, 2020 WL 2322993, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 11, 2020) (granting motion to seal “limited” information); *see also Phillips*, 307 F.3d at 1211; *Williams v. Apple Inc.*, 2021 WL 2476916, at *2–3 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2021) (noting Apple’s narrowed sealing requests with “tailored redactions”); Dkt. No. 643 at 3 (finding Apple’s proposed redactions appropriate for an exhibit when redactions were “narrowly tailored” to “sensitive and confidential information”). Apple has only partially redacted limited information in Exhibit A. *See Perry Decl.* ¶ 6.

For the foregoing reasons, there is good cause that warrants partially sealing Exhibit A to Epic’s Motion.

CONCLUSION

Apple respectfully requests that the Court seal the information identified in the accompanying declaration.

Dated: February 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

By: Mark A. Perry

Mark A. Perry

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